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The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian

No. 385. NOVEMBER, 1938.

UNITY. DIVERSITY. FRIENDSHIP.

I Cor. xii, 5. "Diversity of workings, but the same God"

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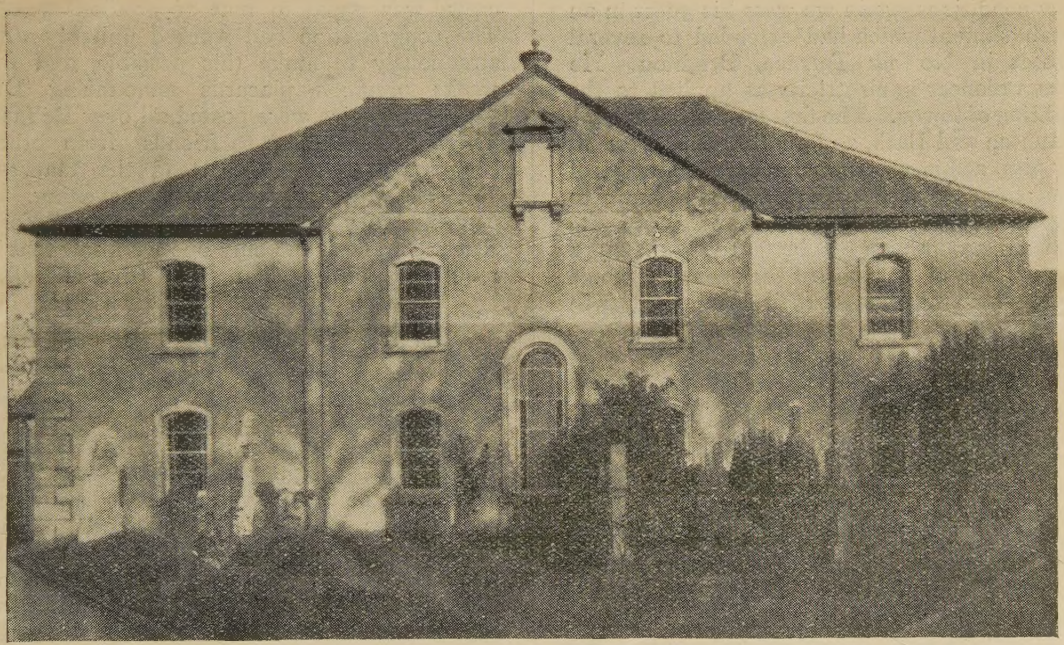

GLENARM NON-SUBSCRIBING PRESBYTERIAN MEETING HOUSE.

NOTES AND NEWS.

The month opened with relief that one of the greatest crises ever known in the history of the world, had passed. On the Monday previous the world listened to what at the time, was taken to be a declaration of war by Hitler; but, by the courageous efforts of the English Prime Minister, aided by the moral support of the President of the United States, combined with the help of the French Prime Minister, and assistance from Mussolini war was averted. On the day following at Glasgow Queen Elizabeth launched the world's greatest ship, giving it her own name, and at the same time with cheerfulness and confidence, she spoke the message which had been given to her by the King, reminding one of the message given by the great Queen Elizabeth three hundred and fifty years ago, when a great fleet was threatening England with invasion and England at the time scarcely had a fleet or an army worth thinking about, but, the whole country responded to the call. When, at the moment there is a lull, and better feelings are prevailing, could

not a move be made to bring about a pact between England, Germany and America which would secure the peace of the world and make effective the purpose for which the League of Nations was founded.

* * *

We notice with a feeling of regret, the announcement in the newspapers of an old friend Mr. H. G. Massingham, whom we met about forty years ago in Exeter, as our host when preaching at George's Meeting for the late Rev. W. T. Chignell. When last we were with him, though over eighty years of age, he had all the vigour mental and physical of a young man, full of schemes which he courageously brought to fruition and under new conditions again we were his guest in an establishment which had extended to several houses in Norfolk Terrace, Brighton. He was a pioneer in electricity as applied to the lighting of towns. The first towns in England, Taunton and Bath, and another one, were lit by him, at his own expense, by permission of the corporations, which allowed him to experiment at his own risk, and when the scheme was proven to be successful, by a special Act of Parliament they took the whole thing over from him at their own price, with the result that he lost heavily, financially. But his optimism carried him on in other undertakings. His establishment at Brighton was not exclusively vegetarian; but, the cooking was so famous that most of his boarders preferred to have a meatless diet. The dining room was in the area, but the sun always shone there, electric light was so arranged as to appear to come in at the windows. Mirrors all round gave the impression of several dining rooms opening out one into another, and it was some little time, indeed in our own case two or three days, before we woke up to the illusion. Fifty years ago the doctors gave him up, and he was not expected to live; but, he decided to do his best to prove the doctors wrong, and adopted a vegetarian diet, and lived a strenuous, useful life to the ripe age of eighty-seven. He had a well-stored mind, and was a friend of all sorts and conditions of men.

* * *

We tender our sympathy to the Church of Ireland, in the severe loss it has sustained in the death of its new Primate—Dr. Day, who passed away on the evening, Monday, Sept. 26th. He became ill a month previous while on holiday in Wales, and had to enter a nursing home in Dublin. He had to undergo two operations, the state of his heart afterwards caused anxiety, and at the time mentioned he passed away peacefully. He had had scarcely time to make his influence felt to any great extent. He had been Bishop of Ossory, and was an exceedingly gifted man. He graduated in the Divinity Tripos at Cambridge in 1896, and was a Theological Professor at Trinity College, Dublin.

* * *

"The winter storms" were not long in beginning this year, and on the night of October 2nd there was a deluge of rain in Belfast. Most of the churches that night were thinly attended; but at the hour of commencement the York Street Anniversary crowded the capacious Ulster Hall to overflowing, and the crowd was equal to that of previous years. The congregation had worked unitedly and strenuously to make this possible, and for weeks previous placards announcing Dr. Agnew's service were posted all over Belfast. There is a request to friends from other congregations not to attend the Harvest Thanksgiving Service in the evening, as possibly they will be turned away. York Street Church is the only one we know that is required to put up the notice "Church Full."

* * *

"The Daily Express," Oct. 20th, reports an item which may interest our readers as both the Rev. Alfred Hall, M.A., B.D., of Sheffield, and the Rev. A. W. Vallance of Pendleton, are both well known in Belfast. Miss Elspeth Hall, B.A., daughter of Rev. Alfred Hall "hopes to be a minister by next July when she marries Rev. A. W. Vallance." "She hopes to make a good job of running her home and her church. She will probably be given the pastorate of another church in the Manchester district She met Mr. Vallance 12 years ago when he came to her father's house as a student." Miss Hall is reported as saying: "What the final arrangements will be for my work as a minister I don't yet know, so it is difficult to say how I shall fix that in with my work at home."

* * *

December, 1938, number published on November 26th. Copy sent in before November 19th will be received by Rev. John Barron, Ballywalter, Co. Down.

SUBSIDY FUND.

Contributions should be addressed to Rev. A. Davison, Dromore, by whom they will be gratefully acknowledged.

REPORTS.

Ballyhemlin.—The Harvest Thanksgiving took place on Sunday, October 2nd, in the afternoon. Notwithstanding threatening rain, the Meeting House was packed, and out on the road a large number of motor-cars and bicycles were drawn up. The Belgravia Quartette again gave their valuable assistance, every item of which was listened to with rapt attention. The occasion was one of thanksgiving not only for harvest; but, that for the time being world-war was averted. The Rev. J. Barron preached from the text Eph. III, 11—"The eternal purpose which He has realised in Christ Jesus our Lord," and referring to the words in the context: "the full sweep of the divine wisdom," which he maintained was synonymous with the Great Plan of evolution from the savage to the Christ, mirrored in the history and literature of a very ancient people, the Bible beginning with darkness and chaos and closing with the words "Lord Jesus," briefly reviewed the events of the previous week, and then dealt with the great scheme outlined in the passage." The miracle was not, that Jesus Christ had come into the world, the miracle would have been had he not come. He was the consummation of the eternal purpose, the first of many brethren, the promise of the Divine Humanity which is yet to be, the glorious harvest for which the world was created." The collection was £9 10s. 6d.

York Street Anniversary.—Notwithstanding a rain-storm which practically kept empty many of the churches in Belfast, the service in the Ulster Hall, on Sunday night, October 2nd, was equal to the great services on the occasion in previous years, again the hall was packed right from the organ to the vestibule, and the meeting was an intensively enthusiastic and inspiring one. 1,500 copies of the "Non-Subscribing Presbyterian" were distributed and yet that number was altogether inadequate for the great audience. The intensely critical period through which the country had just passed had rendered it doubtful some days previous as to whether the hall would not be requisitioned for national service, and it was a great deal to be thankful for that the meeting could be held at all. It meant a heavy responsibility for Dr. Agnew and his workers, in the face of so many adverse circumstances to bring it to such a successful climax. Tea for over 500 visitors was provided in the York Street Hall.

Ministers' Conference.—The 323rd meeting was held at Ballee, on Monday, October 3rd, the Rev. C. Simpson, presiding. There was a good attendance, notwithstanding the torrential rains. Several important matters were discussed, among them being the significance of the term "Free Christian" in the title of the London Assembly. Thanks were accorded to Mr. and Mrs. Simpson for their generous hospitality.

Unitarian College, Manchester.—On Tuesday, October 4th, the College was formally opened for the new Session, and the Rev. W. Lawrence Schroeder, M.A., read a paper on "The Cultivation of Taste." Prior to this meeting, at the "Past and Present Students' Union," presided over by the Rev. L. Redfern, M.A., B.D., an address was delivered by the Rev. J. Worthington, B.A., on "Unitarianism, to-day and to-morrow."

Antrim.—Harvest Thanksgiving was held on Sunday afternoon, October 2nd, at 3-30. Though the afternoon turned out very wet, the Church was filled to overflowing. The Rev. John McCleery, B.A., of Newry, preached a most eloquent sermon, which was enthusiastically enjoyed and praised by everyone present. Having read the parable of the rich fool, he eloquently enlarged on the madness of gaining the whole world of material things and losing all the deeper values of life—the soul. The decorations were simple, but artistic. The organist was Mr. Albert Taylor, L.R.A.M., of First Presbyterian Church, Belfast, and solos were exquisitely rendered by Mrs. Taylor, A.R.C.M. The congregational singing, with a large augmented choir, from the other churches, was of a very high order, it was the essence of brightness

and heartiness. Gifts of flowers, corn and vegetables were received, not only from the members of our own congregation, but from the members of all the neighbouring churches.

Newry.—Services for the blessings of harvest were held in the First Presbyterian hurch, Newry, on Sunday, 18th September, when there were large congregations present. Preaching at the morning service from the text, First Kings, chapter 19, verses 4-12, Rev. John McCleery, B.A., S.T.M. —the minister of the congregation, said:—At the harvest thanksgiving service our thoughts most naturally turn (even without assistance provided by the skill of voluntary decorators) to Nature. Through prayer, lesson and hymn we are again and again reminded of the lessons of the harvest, the teaching of Nature, and the voices with which Nature speaks. Appropriate then will be a sermon on this text: "And a great and strong wind rent the mountains and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and, after the wind, an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and, after the earthquake, a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and, after the fire, a still small voice," or, as another translation has it, "After the fire a sound of gentle stillness." Here we have mention of, at least, three voices of Nature (there may be far more, five or seven or even nine) but these three voices of the wind, the earthquake and the fire, can very conveniently be taken as symbols of man's threefold relation to Nature. I mean the wind will represent his practical relationship, the earthquake his emotional relationship, and the fire his intellectual relationship, and these three great voices of Nature in their several references are telling us to Endeavour, Enjoy and Enquire. When the ancient Hebrew prophet listened to the voices of Nature, the first he heard was the wind—a symbol of the appeal to the practical side of man. What it says is "Endeavour." For it is the wind that tells the husbandman when to gather in his harvest lest it be scattered, that tells the sailor when to furl and unfurl his sails, that tells the builder to lay his foundation well so that the house may stand four-square to the storms. In some ways this is Nature's loudest voice—for it really is the voice of the struggle for existence. The struggle for existence has been going on for millions of years. The parasites have tried to avoid it, but Nature has had her revenge, dishonouring them with the mark of ugliness. But remember this struggle for existence means far more than life and death competition for a living—it includes all the efforts that living creatures make against surmounting difficulties and limitations, and it rises to an endeavour after well-being that man himself might usefully admire. What about this for industry? One spring, a tom-tit gathered 2,379 feathers (I have the late J.Arthur Thompson's word for that). Then there is the immense care and time taken by an old otter to train its young, and a thousand other such things that you know as well as me. But the thing that is important is not the manner of the struggle, but the general fact that Nature's method implies an endless sifting and weeding out. All down the ages there has been an elimination of those with the unlit lamp or the ungirt loin. Nature's first voice is—Struggle, Endeavour, Struggle. A lion's skin is never cheap. What is worth gaining and what is worth keeping must be fought for. Time and again Nature shows us the danger of having things made too easy. What would our hereditary character have been without that long, long process of sifting out the sluggish, the dull, the unbalanced, and the unhealthy? What would our hereditary character have been without Nature's approval of the adventurous, the controlled, the far-sighted and the strenuous—meaning by approval the award of survival and success? Nature's chief rewards have gone to those that coveted earnestly the best gifts. The poet uttered a scientific fact when he said:

"Life is not as idle ore,
But iron dug from central gloom,
And heated hot with burning flares,
And dipt in baths or hissing tears,
And battered by the shocks of doom
To shape and use."

I tell you that one of the greatest

difficulties of modern life is due to man's never ending attempt to get away out of all hearing of Nature's first voice which bids him "struggle." That leads us to a problem we don't hear much about just now, but which we do well to ponder on.—'Newry Telegraph.'

Downpatrick—In the evening of October 2nd, the Rev. C. Simpson said that whilst they met to thank God for the gifts of harvest time, they also met after a week of portentous dramatic events to thank Him that the immediate threat to European peace had been removed. It was fitting that they should heartily remember with thanks the national leaders and representatives whose wisdom, courage, and probity had carried the effort for peace to a successful conclusion. First among those to whom thanks are due, he said, is the British Prime Minister, Mr. Neville Chamberlain. Those who are members of this Church are proud to remember that the Chamberlain family has had long and honourable associations with the Unitarian movement, and that Unitarians have been foremost in the fight for civil and religious liberty. Even if all efforts for peace had failed no one could say, after Mr. Chamberlain's magnanimous gesture in visiting Herr Hitler, that the British people had slammed the doors on peace through prejudice or pride.

All Souls' Church, Belfast.—The services were held on Sunday, October 2nd, and the special preacher was the Rev. Savell Hicks. The attendance in the morning was very good indeed, but owing to the inclement state of the weather there were not so many out at night. The Church was very beautifully decorated, and it lends itself to decoration. The Rev. Savell Hicks himself, and his addresses will long be remembered. The singing was of a very high order and great credit is due to our organist, and naturally to the choir also.

Templepatrick.—Successful Harvest Services were conducted by the minister on September 25th. Thanks are given to Mrs. Moore and other friends from Ballyclare who rendered efficient help with the music. Mr. W. Gamble, Antrim, sang charmingly, and the choir contributed anthems in pleasing style. Attendances and collections were an improvement on last year.

Glenarm. — Successful Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held in the Old Meeting House, on Sunday and Monday, September 25th and 26th. The Sunday service was conducted by the minister (Rev. E. Lockett), and that on Monday evening by Rev. T. Munn, of Cairncastle, whose good and timely sermon was much appreciated. The Church was suitably decorated for the festival by ladies of the Congregation, and great credit is due to the organist (Miss Lily Robinson) and the augmented choir and members for the musical part of the worship. There were good congregations at both services.

Crumlin. — Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held on Sunday, 25th September, the Rev. F. Munford, B.A., being the preacher both morning and evening. There were good congregations, the Church being well filled at the latter service. The Church was tastefully decorated with fruit and flowers, the fruit afterwards being taken to the Children's Hospital, Belfast, from which a note of thanks has been received.

Killinchy.—The Harvest Services were held on Sunday, October 2nd, and Monday evening, October 3rd. The Church was tastefully decorated by the young ladies and the young people. The fruits of the year were displayed, including corn, fruits and the varied natural objects which Providence has yielded throughout the past year. The preacher for this year was the Rev. J. A. Williams, minister of the High Pavement Chapel, Nottingham. He conducted the services both morning and evening, on October 2nd, and also on Monday evening, October 3rd, at 7-30. There was a fairly full attendance on Sunday morning. The collection for this special occasion was up to the mark and considered adequate. On Sunday evening the torrential rains made the attendance less than on former years, but the attendance was in a way very good, and a large number of

people made their appearance. Special Harvest Hymns were rendered by the choir both morning and evening. An anthem: "The Earth is the Lord's," morning and evening. Miss J. Russell, our organist, presided at the organ in an exemplary way.

All Souls' Church, Belfast.—A Sale of Work will be held on Friday, the 18th November, 1938, commencing at 3 p.m. Friends are most cordially invited or if unable to be present their gifts of work or donations will be gratefully acknowledged by any member of the congregation; or:—Miss Montgomery, 33 Maryville Pk., Belfast; Mr. Wm. T. Barry, 53 Balmoral Ave., Belfast.

It is hoped that everyone reading this announcement will be ready to help in some way. Help is required.

First Presbyterian Church, Belfast.—The Junior Branch of the Women's League which has recently been formed had their inaugural meeting on 4th October. There was a very good attendance of the junior and senior girls of our Sunday School and Church and this attendance has increased at subsequent meetings. The girls are all very enthusiastic in the work which has already begun for an entertainment which they hope to give early in December. This Junior Branch meets every Tues. evening in Room No. 1, Central Hall, at 8 p.m. New members will be made very welcome and we are sure will enjoy their share in the work which is being undertaken, and the happy hours spent with our young people.

Belfast, York Street.—We wish to thank all our friends for their help at the Ulster Hall.

Filling the Ulster Hall under normal circumstances is not a great matter and indeed we have often talked of a monthly service there. Our organisation, however, has always been directed to filling the Hall under the worst possible conditions and had we desired a supreme test we could not have devised a better one. The weather at five o'clock was such that the streets were deserted and wind added to the discomforts of the drenching rain. We have heard since of several who made several attempts to get to the Hall but simply could not. All that we had any reason to expect at the Ulster Hall were the fit and well of our own congregation. We knew that nothing would stop them. We were touched at the action of a few of our own people some of whom have always been excused on account of age or infirmity. When they saw the weather they made an effort and came; on a fine night they would not have been expected and they did so believing that even their presence would not prevent the service from being a fiasco and a loss to their Church. They felt that they ought to go down with the ship as one of them said. The ship, however, did not go down. People were astonished to see a splendid congregation at six thirty but none had the slighest hope that the Hall would be filled. Members came off the platform to help to fill the Hall as arranged. But astonishment turned to literal amazement when just before seven o'clock the Hall suddenly filled up. Extra chairs had to be obtained and after that many arriving late because of the storm had to go home in it. When many large churches had not a single worshipper we had over two thousand in the Ulster Hall drawn from places fifty miles apart and the collections was better than in several years.

What we feel most however is the spirit shown by our friends in the country. The action of one gentleman is typical of many. He had no intention of coming to the Ulster Hall. When he saw the prospects of rain he began rounding up friends and driving them to the tram lines though he could not be with us himself.

We feel that our Church must have done something to deserve such a demonstration. People have talked in the past about crowds being drawn for amusement or to hear the band. Bands, preachers and music much better than ours failed to draw any audience whatever on that night. Loyalty to York Street and friendliness toward it alone were responsible for the great rally.

Some people do not see the sense of this service as they put it. They have even described our endeavour never to have one empty seat as childish. It is impossible to explain why we hold the service and why we insist that every seat

must be full to such people. It gives our people a definite object to work for. It keeps our enthusiasm and loyalty always bright. Experience has shown that it rallys back to us again and again some who may have been drifting away. It provides us every year with new friends some of whom always become the best of members. It advertises all that we are doing during the year. It accounts for our plays and lectures, no better than those elsewhere, being packed out night after night. Above all it puts heart into not only our own people but many others. It checks the notion that the day of Churches is over. We make a special point of noting any of our friends who give forth the opinion that Non-Subscribers are dead and we try to get them before all others to the service. Those who cannot see these things we must leave to their own ways. Without funds and without space and with barely an appeal to anyone outside our Church which has been cleared of debt and practically rebuilt through years when half of its members were unemployed. Had it the means and the space it could be as large again as it is and even if it must some day close it will have lived in these years and its end will not be because of its Ulster Hall Service but because pure accident denied space to the one Church which needed it and the past did not leave us such funds as would provide security. A few hundred pounds such as might be spent on an organ or a window elsewhere would secure that the Church in York Street could always call a minister. Even if half our people dropped away there would still be a splendid congregation capable of growing again. The site is one of the best in Belfast for a congregation which must be gathered from the ends of the City. Other denominations cast envious eyes upon it. Our aim when our re-building is complete in 1940 which is our centenary will be to try and build up reserves and indeed we have already sacrificed funds toward a day which we may not see. Meanwhile however our policy is to go on as though the future were secure trusting that our denomination will perhaps stand by what might be called its greatest missionary effort though it has been made for it rather than by it.

Our winter work is now in full swing. Our latest effort the four o'clock fellowship has astonished us. We hoped that occasionally the new Gallery might be required. It has turned out that even it is not enough and we have been crowded out on the first two Sundays. The people have barely left the Hall when the evening congregation begins to arrive and the number of friends from the country is a pleasing feature of it.

We would by the way request our friends not to come to the Harvest, on October 30th. Their presence in the morning or afternoon will help us. In the evening many will be turned away and not only will we not be able to make welcome those who might come from the country but they would help us more on any other night when we could make their visit more pleasant for them. We hope apart from these special occasions to welcome contingents from many of our churches during this winter.

Presbytery of Bangor.—At a meeting of Presbytery on Tuesday, October 18th the Rev. D. J. Williams applied to be released from his charge at Killinchy at the end of the year. It was agreed that an assistant and successor be appointed, the Rev. D. J. Williams to be Emeritus Minister. The oversight of the congregation during the interim will be exercised by the Rev. J. G. Davies, of Comber..

Moneyrea.—The harvest thanksgiving services were held on Sunday and Monday evening, October 2nd and 3rd. The Meeting House was beautifully decorated for the occasion with flowers, fruit, vegetables and corn by the ladies of the congregation and their willing assistants. The services on Sunday were conducted by the Rev. C. J. Montgomery, M.A., of Holywood, whose discourses were highly appreciated. Rev. A. L. Agnew, B.A., D.D., occupied the pulpit in the evening, whose eloquent sermon dealt with the European crisis as a harvest. Appropriate anthems were rendered by the choir, the soloist being Miss M. Bailie. Mrs. McCartney presided at the organ. In spite of exceptionally stormy weather, the attendance at each service was very good.

Clough.—The harvest thanksgiving services were held on Sunday, 16th October. The Church was as usual tastefully decorated, and was the subject of much favourable comment by visitors from other churches. The preacher for the day was the Rev. Henry Hall, Downpatrick, whose services were much appreciated. The choir sang the anthem: "How great is His Goodness" — with the organist (Miss Madge Kirkpatrick) as accompanist. In the evening Mrs. Stringer, Newcastle, was the soloist and her rendering of "Just for the Day," and "Beyond the Dawn," added greatly to the devotional influence of the service. On the Monday evening the preacher was the Rev. A. Osborne Rowland, Belfast Mission, and the soloist was Mrs. Sherlock, Belfast. Her solos: "Poor Man's Garden," and "Abide with Me," and the preacher's impressive sermon made the week-night service a memorable occasion. At the close the minister (Rev. J. Shaw Brown) thanked all those who by their gifts and the voluntary assistance had contributed to the success of the occasion. The attendance at all the services was good and quite up to the average of former years.

Warrenpoint.—The annual harvest thanksgiving service, in connection with this old church, was held on Sunday, 23rd October, when the special preacher was Mr. John D. Radcliffe, a student at Queen's University, Belfast, who delivered an appropriate address, apologising for the absence of the Rev. Wm. Eakin, Belfast, who was to have preached, but had to undergo an operation during the week. The church was beautifully decorated for the occasion. The accomplished organist was Miss Agnes Lockhart, Altnaveigh, Newry. A solo was charmingly rendered by Mrs. Johnstone, Bessbrook. Messrs. Christopher Warnock, James Thompson, Thomas J. Brown, and Frederick Kerr, junr., took up the offertory. Those who decorated the church were:—Mrs. McCleery, Miss Bailey, Mrs. Larmour, Miss Robb, Mr. Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. F. Kerr, Miss Lockhart, and Miss Mc Guffin.—"Newry Telegraph."

First Church, Belfast.—A call has been forwarded to the Rev. Reginald William Wilde, M.A., B.Sc., of Todmorden. Mr. Wilde received his theological training at the Unitarian College, Manchester.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE.

A United Women's Service was held in the First Church, Rosemary Street, Belfast, on Sunday, September 26th, at 7 p.m. The preacher was Mrs. Cottier, B.A., President of British League of Unitarian and other Liberal Christian Women, who preached a very helpful sermon. The service was well attended and the choir of the First Church, under the leadership of Mr. Albert Taylor, A.R.C.M., L.R.A.M., gave a beautiful rendering of the anthem: "How manifold are thy works."

The quarterly meeting was held on Saturday, September 25th, at Dromore. A goodly company travelled from Belfast, and conversations in the train, proved both enjoyable and educational. Mrs. Cottier conducted the service and preached the sermon. The Dromore Branch provided a tea which was much appreciated, after which Mrs. G. Gardner, B.A., President of the Ulster District, presided over a meeting at which Mrs. Cottier gave an interesting account of the Cambridge Conference, and also discussed League matters. Greetings from the Central Committee and the Manchester District were brought by Mrs. Cottier, who promised to convey greetings from Ulster to Central Committee, Manchester District and the Ainsworth Branch.

Mountpottinger Branch Women's League.

The Winter Session was opened on Tuesday, 11th October, 1938. Mrs. Gardiner of Holywood, President of the Ulster District League, conducted the service. Mrs. James McIlwrath, vice-President, presided, and Miss Sarah McIlwrath provided the music. After a cup of tea the business meeting was held, and preliminary arrangements made for the forthcoming Sale of Work.

BISHOP HERFORD.

The Rev. Vernon Herford was known in our North of Ireland congregations. The last time he preached in Belfast, was at York Street. The younger generation did not know him very well, but about fifty years ago he was prominent in reviving the interest in the Sacraments in the English congregations, in many of which were branches of the Guild of the Good Shepherd, which he founded. He was a man of great zeal and self-sacrificing devotion. He was the son of William Herford, the author of "Herbartian Psychology" and a prominent educationist, who with Mrs. Herford retired to Paignton, Devon, and he was brother of the famous preacher Dr. Brooke Herford.

Vernon Herford called himself an "orthodox Unitarian;" but, he was a profound scholar and intensely an ecclesiastic. He belonged to a family, part of which was Unitarian and part of which was High Church. An ancient Church, the Nestorian, founded in the fourth century, has still scattered remnants in the East, and its orders are evidently still recognised as valid by the ancient Catholic Churches, the Greek Church and the Roman Catholic.

During his ministry, which for many years he carried on independently in Oxford, the validity of these orders was strongly questioned and criticised; but since his death, the R.C. Church has recognised their validity. In the Liberal Catholic the intimation of his passing, as given in "The Guardian" is referred to. It appears "he was ordained deacon and presbyter, and consecrated Bishop in 1902 by Mar Basilius, the Nestorian Metropolitan of India." The L.C. article continues, "it is evident from the fact that 'no re-ordination' of Dr. Orchard, whom Bishop Herford ordained, was required on his submission to Rome, that Rome recognised the validity of Bishop Herford's consecration." The R.C. "The Universe" of 25th June, 1915, described him as "The Right Rev. Vernon Herford, Bishop of the Syro-Chaldean Church." Apparently he never acknowledged the jurisdiction and authority of the Holy Father.

The R.C. Church does not acknowledge the validity of Anglican Orders; but, Anglicans acknowledge R.C. Orders, and do not require a R.C. priest to be ordained over again, should he be admitted into its ministry. Bishop Herford's ideal may have been that while holding to the liberalism of Unitarianism, he valued also the historical continuity of the Christian Church, and he may have been of the same mind as those who question whether or not as much of the tares as the wheat was pulled up at the Reformation; he was not regarded by some acquainted with him, as a man of any great breadth of mind or tolerence; but he was an interesting figure, and very sincere and earnest.

REVIEWS.

THE LINDSAY PRESS (a) "The Upland Path," by Henry Gow, M.A., B.D., price 2/6; (b) "The Enchanted Children," by Vivian T. Pomeroy, price 1/-.

These are two books suitable for Christmas presents, the first the Autobiography of a well-known and beloved leader, whom we can scarcely realize as being removed from us, and who was full of youthfulness until the end, though that came in the ripeness of years.

The other book comes very opportunely at a time when "Snow-White" is all the rage, for here, though here we have lots of mind pictures which those who hear and read these Twenty-five-minute stories can visualise for themselves.

The "Upland Path" contains a memoir by W. H. Drummond, D.D., and the "Autobiography" is edited by J. G. and M. E. G., and it is of absorbing interest to those who directly or indirectly, sociably and otherwise were linked with Dr. Gow.

Perhaps there are certain statements that he makes which we would have expressed differently; but, we must bear in mind how passing years make modifications. The book contains beautiful illustrations of Tai Bach on the old Conway Road, two and a half miles

from Penmaenmaur, in N. Wales, which was his home in early days, the Rev. Enfield Dawson being instrumental in getting Dr. Gow's father there as minister. Amid delightful surroundings and with wisest and kindest of friends, those days must have been very happy, as indeed he says they were. Two portraits, very life-like of him in 1930 and 1937, as well as one of him at Oxford in 1931 are given. The book brings one very close to the heart of Henry Gow.

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